

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated October 4, 2004 in which the Examiner objected to the drawings, abstract and claims 1, 4, 5 and 12-16, rejected claims 10 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph and rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph.

As indicated above, the specification has been amended to correspond to U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner approves the corrections to the specification.

The drawing was objected to as failing to show a perforated board. Attached, in replacement sheet Figure 1, is reference numeral 25 which refers to the perforated board. Additionally, the specification on page 4 has been amended to indicate reference numeral 25. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the drawing.

The drawing was objected to as not showing the inlet of the hydrocyclone. Applicants respectfully point out to the Examiner that claims 10 and 20-22 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the drawing.

The drawing was objected to because an arrow in the drawing was not indicated by a reference numeral. As indicated on replacement sheet Figure 1, the arrow has been deleted. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the drawing.

As indicated above, the abstract has been amended. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the abstract.

As indicated above, claims 1, 4, 5 and 12-16 have been amended to correction minor informalities. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the objection to the claims.

Claims 10 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph. As indicated above, claims 10 and 20-22 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. As indicated above, the claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims do not narrow the literal scope of the claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The references taken singularly or in combination do not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 6, 2004

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached please find a copy of a replacement sheet for Figure 1.